

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A blow-molding method for fiber-containing thermoplastic resins, comprising:

holding a parison comprising an inorganic fiber-containing, melt-expandable thermoplastic resin, between a pair of facing splits of a mold, while allowing the expansion of the thermoplastic resin;

blowing said parison to shape it while applying pressure on the parison; and
thereafter reducing a gaseous pressure inside said parison, to thereby again expand said inorganic fiber-containing, melt-expandable thermoplastic resin, to obtain a blow-molding.

2. (Previously Presented) The blow-molding method according to claim 1, wherein said inorganic fiber-containing, melt-expandable thermoplastic resin comprises a foaming agent.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) The blow-molding method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said inorganic fiber-containing, melt-expandable thermoplastic resin comprises inorganic fibers selected from the group consisting of glass fibers, carbon fibers and metal fibers; and

wherein a fiber content of said inorganic fiber-containing, melt-expandable thermoplastic resin falls between 15 and 70 % by weight, based on a total weight of said resin.

5. (Previously Presented) The blow-molding method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said parison is prepared by melt-kneading a molding material that comprises at least fiber-reinforced thermoplastic resin pellets; and

wherein said fiber-reinforced thermoplastic resin pellets each have an overall length of from 3 to 100 mm;

wherein said fiber-reinforced thermoplastic resin pellets contain from 20 to 90 % by weight of inorganic fibers having a length equal to the overall length of said fiber-reinforced thermoplastic resin pellets; and

wherein said inorganic fibers are aligned parallel to each other in each pellet.

6. (Previously Presented) The blow-molding method as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least a part of said inorganic fiber-containing, melt-expandable thermoplastic resin is modified with an unsaturated carboxylic acid or its derivative, to obtain a modified resin.

7-9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) The blow-molding method as claimed in claim 2, wherein said inorganic fiber-containing, melt-expandable thermoplastic resin comprises inorganic fibers selected from the group consisting of glass fibers, carbon fibers and metal fibers; and

wherein a fiber content of said inorganic fiber-containing, melt-expandable thermoplastic resin falls between 15 and 70 % by weight, based on a total weight of said resin.

11. (Previously Presented) The blow-molding method as claimed in claim 2, wherein said parison is prepared by melt-kneading a molding material that comprises at least fiber-reinforced thermoplastic resin pellets; and

wherein said fiber-reinforced thermoplastic resin pellets each have an overall length of from 3 to 100 mm;

wherein said fiber-reinforced thermoplastic resin pellets contain from 20 to 90 % by weight of inorganic fibers having a length equal to the overall length of said fiber-reinforced thermoplastic resin pellets; and

wherein said inorganic fibers are aligned parallel to each other in each pellet.

12. (Previously Presented) The blow-molding method as claimed in claim 2, wherein at least a part of said inorganic fiber-containing, melt-expandable thermoplastic resin is modified with an unsaturated carboxylic acid or its derivative, to obtain a modified resin.

13-15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said blow-molding is single layered.

17. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said blow-molding is multi-layered.

18. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 17, wherein said multilayered blow-molding is obtained from a multilayered parison of which at least an outer layer does not contain inorganic fibers or is not melt-expandable.

19. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said blow-molding comprises a surface layer formed in contact with an inner surface of a mold and an inner expanded, light-weight porous layer.

20. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 17, wherein said blow-molding is two-layered.

21. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 20, wherein said two-layered blow-molding has an outer layer having a thickness of from 0.1 to 3 mm and an a fiber-containing thermoplastic resin layer having a thickness of from 0.2 to 20 mm.

22. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 6, wherein a content of said unsaturated carboxylic acid or its derivative in said modified resin is 0.01 to 10 % by weight.

23. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 12, wherein a content of said unsaturated carboxylic acid or its derivative in said modified resin is 0.01 to 10 % by weight.

24. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 22, wherein a content of said modified resin in said inorganic fiber-containing, melt-expandable thermoplastic resin is 0.5 to 20 % by weight.

25. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 23, wherein a content of said modified resin in said inorganic fiber-containing, melt-expandable thermoplastic resin is 0.5 to 20 % by weight.

26. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 4, wherein said glass fibers are surface treated with a coupling agent and then bundled into bundles of from 100 to 10,000 fibers each.

27. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein said glass fibers are surface treated with a coupling agent and then bundled into bundles of from 100 to 10,000 fibers each.

BASIS FOR THE AMENDMENT

Claims 7-9 have been canceled.

Claim 1 has been amended as supported at page 10, last paragraph to page 11, first paragraph.

No new matter is believed to have been added by entry of this amendment. Entry and favorable reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Upon entry of this amendment Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 10-12 and 16-27 will now be active in this application.